

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 1

Keith Sebelius
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Finney	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Windsor Hotel
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 421 North Main street			
CITY OR TOWN: Garden City			
STATE: Kansas	CODE: 67846	COUNTY: Finney	CODE: 055

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work - in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Bryant Garnand			
STREET AND NUMBER: 503 North Sixth street			
CITY OR TOWN: Garden City	STATE: Kansas	CODE: 67846	CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Finney County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Garden City	STATE: Kansas	CODE: 67846	CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas	COUNTY: Finney	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Windsor Hotel located at 421 North Main in Garden City is one of the most distinctive works of Renaissance architecture in southwest Kansas. The four-story building, which has a basement, measures approximately 120 feet long, 100 feet wide, and 55 feet high. It features an entrance tower of an additional story at the northeast corner.

The exterior walls are of native limestone and red bricks which were fired in a local kiln. The windows on the east facade are rectangular with flat arched tops, clear glass, and wood frames. The arched lintels are cut stone and the sills are a combination of cut stone and brick. Brick pilasters flank each window, and many of them have stone capitals superimposed at the second and third floor levels. A stamped metal eave and cornice covers the brick parapet on the east front. Seven small pinnacles rise above the top of the parapet as extensions of the brick pilasters; evidence indicates that two additional pinnacles have been removed. The hotel has a flat tar roof.

The most distinctive feature of the hotel is the square tower over the main entrance at the northeast corner. Although the tower does not project outward from the building, it does project majestically upward. It has a hip roof with a flat top around which an ornamental iron railing is placed. A gabled dormer window projects from each of the four sides of the tower roof, and on the ridge of each is also an iron railing.

On the interior the main point of interest is the mezzanine lobby which runs north-south on the second floor. It extends upward for three stories and is topped by a huge skylight. On three sides the lobby walls are lined with balconies, and on the fourth side two long solid mahogany stairways converge at the bottom. Rooms on each floor are arranged in two rows around the outside of the building; those on the interior open onto the central court created by the mezzanine lobby.

Originally the hotel had 125 guest rooms. After remodeling and modernizing there are presently 85 rooms. A portion of the first floor now houses some commercial enterprises and the fronts of these businesses have been altered with the use of aluminum frame doors and windows, green-painted brick, and blue and orange metal. From the second floor up the exterior of the building presents basically the same appearance as it did originally.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887-88

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Windsor Hotel in Garden City, sometimes referred to as the "Waldorf of the Prairies," was built in 1887-88 by former buffalo hunter John A. Stevens on property he homesteaded in 1879. A business rivalry between Stevens and another pioneer settler, C. J. "Buffalo" Jones, who had just completed a hotel and business block, provided the incentive for construction of the 125-room hotel.

Constructed of native stone and of brick made from a local kiln, the Windsor Hotel cost approximately \$100,000. J. H. Stevens and C. L. Thompson of Garden City designed and built the structure, beginning in March, 1887, and completing it by the spring of 1888. The hotel's most unusual feature is an inside court located in the center of the building on the second floor with a full-length skylight three stories above. In addition to providing lodging and meals for travelers, the hotel was used for banquets, balls and social gatherings and also served as the headquarters for local cattlemen. Guests could enter Steven's Opera House, which adjoined the hotel on the south, by an entrance through the Windsor court. Reportedly the largest hotel between Denver and Kansas City from the late 1880's to 1900, the Windsor was noted for its fine dining room, a reputation which lasted until the mid-1920's when meals were no longer served.

Stevens lost the hotel and opera house in 1893 when deteriorating economic conditions in the United States brought ruin to many western Kansas enterprises. Ownership of the Stevens property then passed to John E. Baker and a Mr. Inge, and later a partnership of Baker and George Mack owned the holdings. In 1935 title to the hotel was transferred to Mrs. John Baker and later to her daughter, Mrs. Eva Sharer. The present owner, Bryant Garnand, purchased the building in 1944 and still uses part of the lower floor for a furniture store. Raymond Baird has managed the hotel for 26 years.

The Windsor Hotel was one of the largest and most elegant hotels in western Kansas at the turn of the century. Serving as headquarters for many land and cattle transactions and also as a community center, it has had an important part in the development of the Garden City area. The Windsor Hotel is an excellent example of Renaissance architecture in Kansas and is one of the few outstanding early western Kansas hotel buildings. It is particularly noteworthy because of its large size and its three-story inside court.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Finney	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Kansas City Times, January 23, 1953.
Morrow, Darrell, "Prairie Waldorf Creates Illusion," Wichita Eagle,
August 20, 1969.
Norris, Hamer, "The Story of Half a Century," Garden City News,
October 28, 1937.
"Palmy Days in Historic Garden City," Topeka Capital, November 11,
1906.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Bill, "Garden City's Windsor," Plainsman (Dodge City, Kan., Rolland Jacquart, Publisher, 1960), pp. 21, 24.

Directory of Finney County, Kansas, 1886 (Salina, Kan., Kansas Directory Company, Publishers, 1886), p. 182.

Garden City Daily Herald, February 10, March 10, 19, 24, May 12, 14, June 14, 22, 1887.

Garden City Sentinel, April 27, 1887; January 1, 1888.

Garden City Telegram, March 15, 1935.

Garden City Weekly Herald, July 28, September 22, October 13, November 10, 24, December 8, 22, 1887; January 12, 1888.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0		37 58 06	100 52 24	
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

One acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Richard Pankratz, Planner Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant	
ORGANIZATION	DATE		
	Kansas State Historical Society	September 22, 1971	
STREET AND NUMBER:			
120 West Tenth Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Topeka	Kansas	66612	20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Nyle H. Miller

Title

Executive Secretary, Kansas
State Historical Society

Date

January 5, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS